Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Sambat 1526-1596 , AD 1469-1539

(An Illustrated Spiritual Journey)



Disclaimer

In Sikh faith Worshiping Idols and Pictures of Sikh Guru is not practiced as we believe that there can not be a perfect picture of the creator of universe.

We believe in concept of “Shabad Guru” , the Gurbani of *Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji* our present Guru.

The pictures used in this book are unverified pictures.

ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ॥

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਿਆ ਮਿਟੀ ਧੁੰਧ ਜਗ ਚਾਨਣ ਹੋਆ॥
ਜਿਉਂ ਕਰ ਸੂਰਜ ਨਿਕਲਿਆ ਤਾਰੇ ਛਪੇ ਅੰਧੇਰ ਪਲੋਆ॥

With the emergence of the true Guru Nanak, the mist cleared and the light scattered all around.

As if, at the sun rise, the stars disappears and the darkness is dispelled.

Bhai Gurdas Ji Var 1/27

Political Map of India during 1469-1539

	Ruler of India	Time	Sikh Guru
1	**Lodhi Dynasty:**		
	Bahol Khan Lodhi	1450-1489	**Guru Nanak Dev Ji**
	Sikander Shah	1489-1517	**(1469-1539)**
	Ibrahim Hussain Lodhi	1517-1526	
2	**Muslim Period :**		
	Babur	1526-1530	
	Humayun	1530-1540	

Advent of Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1469-1539)

Guru Nanak Dev Ji was born when India was going through very unsettled time . Punjab has been in the route of many invasions of India. Lodhi's and later Muslim's invaded, ruled and some went back with plunder / loot and some stayed back to continue their rule.

The administration was oppressive . Though largely Muslim , It was discriminatory not only between Muslim and non - Muslim , but also between Muslim's different sects and grouping ; the Sunni, the Shia and the Ismaili. There were also the Sufi's.

Indian society was deeply divided on caste lines. People of lower caste were treated badly and were not allowed to use common facilities like sharing Water resources, Worship places and even not allowed to learn reading and writing.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji

- Guru Nanak Dev Ji was born on 15 April 1469 at Rai Bhoi di Talvaṇḍi (It is now known as Nankana Sahib near Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan).
- His father was Mehta Kalyan Chand Das Bedi popularly known as Mehta Kalu Ji , and Mother Mata Tripta Ji.
- His father was a Patwari (a revenue Officer) of Talwandi.

Bebe Nanki Ji (Sister)

- Bebe Nanki Ji was the elder sister of Guru Nanak Dev.
- Bebe Nanaki was married to Bhai Jai Ram Ji, a reputed Revenue official of Sultanpur Lodhi. Sultanpur was then the capital of the Jalandhar Doab.
- At her insistence , Nanak Dev Ji at the age of 18 years followed her to live with her and her husband at Sultanpur.
- Bhai Jai Ram ji got Guru Nanak Dev Ji employed in the service of Daulat Khan Lodhi the Nawab of Sultanpur .

Family of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

1. On 24 September 1487 Guru Nanak Dev Ji married Mata Sulakkhani, daughter of Mul Chand and Chando Rani, in the town of Batala.
2. They had two sons, Sri Chand ji and Lakhmi Chand Ji.
3. Sri Chand received enlightenment from Guru Nanak's teachings and went on to become the founder of the Udasi sect.

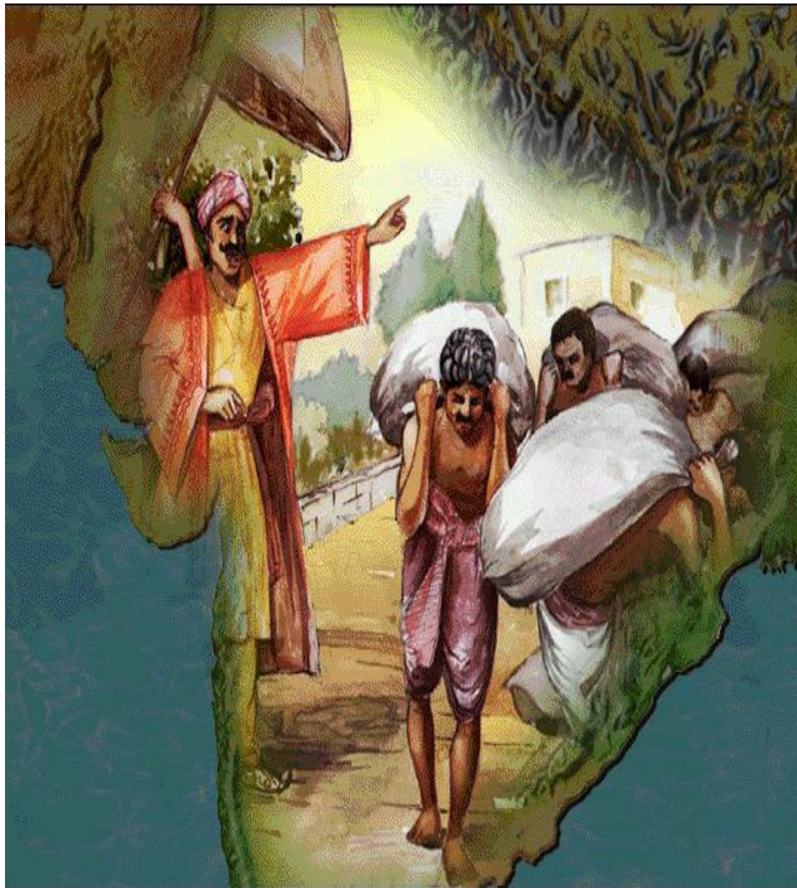
Early Life of Guru Nanak

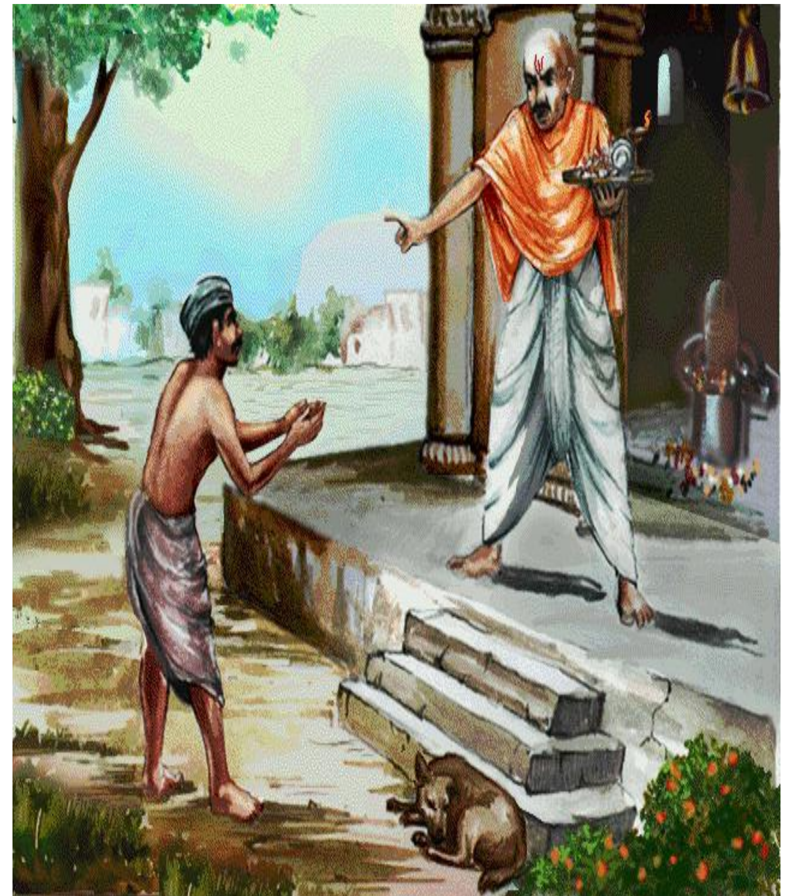
Early in Life Guru Nanak showed sign of Knowledge and Intelligence beyond his age. To each of his preceptors, he displayed extraordinary sagacity not only in mastering their instructions but in questions which he asked them.

1. At the age of 6 he learned Hindi and Sanskrit from Pandit Brijlal.
2. At the age of 13, He learned Persian and Arabic from Maulvi Qutab-ud-Din.

From early age Nanak thought only of Creator and expressed remarkable role of the Divine powers.

Nanak was pained to see deep divide in the society on caste lines and atrocities inflicted on common man by the Rulers and discrimination by High Caste Priests.



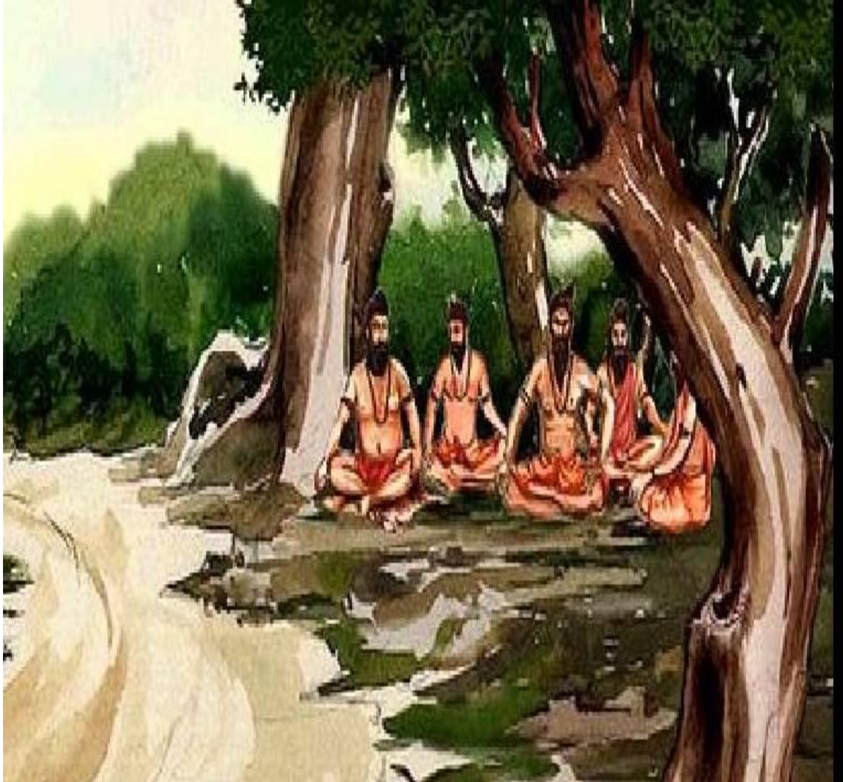


Guru Nanak discarded religious rituals which created difference among people of society .



- Janeou is considered a sacred thread worn by upper caste Hindu's.
- Guru Nanak as a child of 11 years refused to wear sacred thread called Janeou. He stated that instead he would wear the true name of God in his heart for his blessings.
- He reasoned with Pandit Hardyal " Pandit Ji if you have a Janeou for soul than put it, This will not break or soiled , it will neither burn nor perish".

Sacha Sauda (Truthful Business)

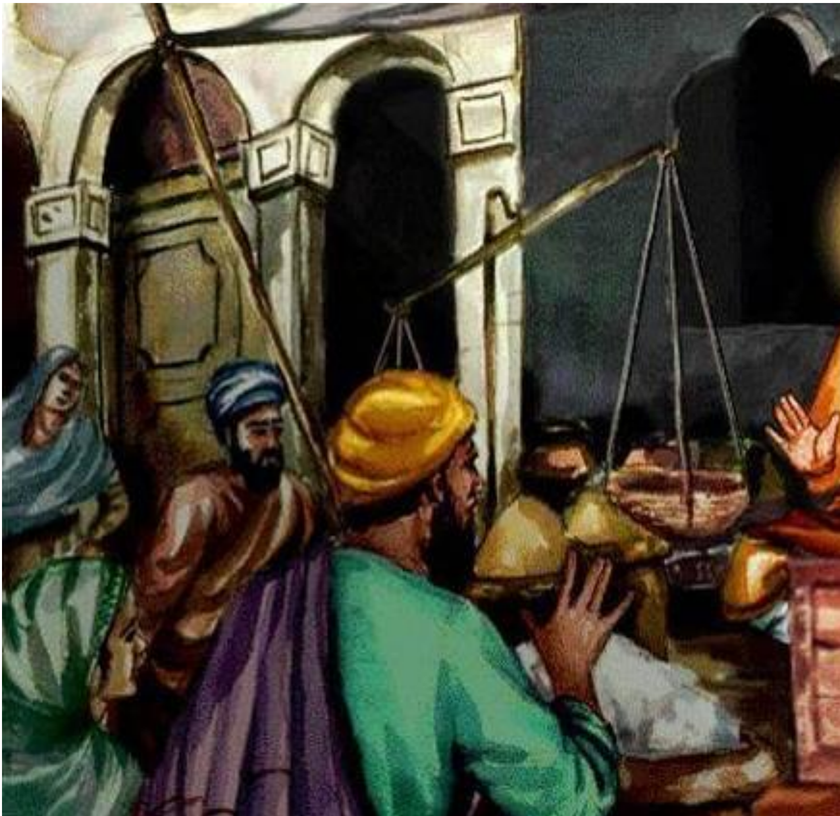


Once his father gave him Rs 20 for business, While he was going to market , He saw a group of hungry and weak Saints.

He arranged food and clothes for all and thus laid an important principle of Sikhism.

“ Service of Poor and Needy”

Guru Nanak as In-charge of Stores at Sultanpur Lodhi



Message

When you are in the position to serve people do it with out any discrimination and with pure Honesty.

@ Sultanpur Lodhi (Near Jalandhar)

- While at Sultanpur , Nanak had a mystic experience . He was then thirty years. One day he did not return after bath from bank of a stream. Those who went to look for him found his clothes. It was feared that he has drowned.
- The Nawab and the fellow countrymen were distraught . Only Nanki (Sister) was unperturbed as she was convinced of his return.
- It is believed that during his absence Nanak had communication with the Creator, where he was told to return and spread the name of one God.
- Nanak reappeared after three days, He did not respond to any questions on his absence. The following day he gave a strong message to the society:

"There is neither a Hindu , there is no Mussalman"

(all are creation of one God and all are his children)

Udasian – Travels of Guru Nanak

- Nanak studied about Social, Political and Spiritual crises prevailing in and around India and left for historic journeys which were to spread over two decades and directed one after another towards the East , South, North and West. He covered over 41000 Km in four such Udasian.

- It was an unparalleled mission to propagate divine message of "One God" and "Brotherhood of Mankind" to the entire universe. He left his family to apprise the mankind of errors that had crept in their **Moral, Social, Religious and Political life.**

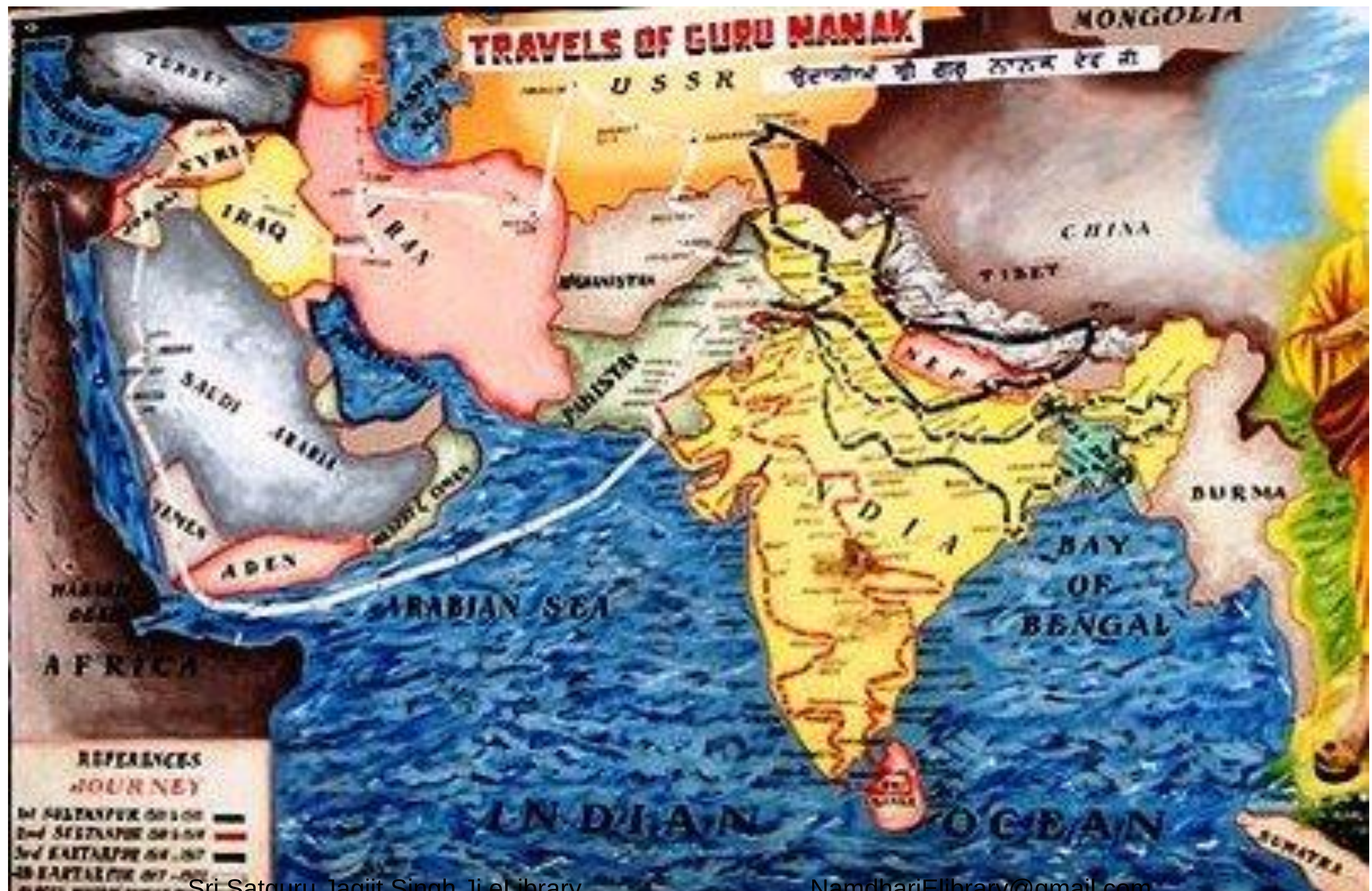
Udasian – Travels of Guru Nanak

- He visited all important centers of Religious , Social and Cultural activities and sought the company of Leaders, Religious heads, Scholars, people of all Status, Professions, Caste and Creed.
- He engaged with them to convey the message of One God and to improve life of Peasants , Farmers so that all can live in better social environment.
- He travelled length and breath of whole of Indian subcontinent, He also went to far off places now known as Bangladesh, Burma (Myanmar), Bhutan, Ceylon (Srilanka) , Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan , Russia , China, Tibet and Nepal.

Udasian – Travels of Guru Nanak

- Guru Nanak was always accompanied by his fellow Bala (Hindu) & Mardana (Muslim) a Rebek (Musical Instrument) player.
- He generally walked his way through Plains and Hills . He used all available means for crossing rivers and seas .
- He is believed to have travelled , thus over a greater part of land and for greater period of time than any other prophet or founder of any religion

Route of Travels of Guru Nanak



1st Udasi- East (Hindu pilgrimage places)
Samvat 1554-1566 (1497-1509 AD)

This lasted for a period over
12 years .

Dress worn during this Udasi:

Saffron robe(Bhagwa Chola)
White Kamarband
Cap (Noakdar Topi)
Garland of Bones
Different color shoes
Mark of Kesar (Tilak) on forehead

Route of 1st Udasi

Pehowa, Kurukshetra , Panipat ,Delhi , Haridwar, Rishikesh, Gorakh Mata , Ayodhya, Nizamabad, Prayag (Allahabad), Gaya, Patna, Hazipur, Dhaka, Guwahati, Kamrup, Dhanasari Vally, Shillong, Sylhet, Calcutta, Cuttack , Jagan Nath Puri, Returned back to Sultanpur

2nd Udasi (South)
Samat 1567-1572 (1510-1515 AD)

This travel lasted for a period over 5 years .

Dress worn during this Udasi:
Kharawa , Assa,
Rope wrapped on head and upper body.

Bhai Saida and Bhai Siho were also accompanying him.

Route of 2nd Udasi

Sirsa , Bikaner , Ajmer , Rajputana, Ujjain, Indore, Bhopal ,Central India, Guntur, Kanchipuram, Tiruchirappalli, West coast, Sri Rangam, Naga Pattnam,

Sri lanka (Cylone) , Batticallova, Kurkul, Mandap, Katragama, Nuwara Eliya, Avissawella, Colombo.

South India : Anuradapuram, Mannar, Bider, Nanded, Daultabad, Broach (Baroda) , Somnath , Dwaraka, Okha, , Ahmedabad, Mathura, Hissar, Fazilka, Pakpatan, Dipalpur, Chunnia and returned to Talwandi.

3rd Udasi (North)
Sambat 1573-74 (1516-1517 AD)

This travel lasted for a period over 2 years .

Dress worn during this Udasi:

Leather clothes,

Mark of Kesar (Tilak) on forehead

Bhai Hansu Luhar,
Bhai Siha and Chemba
were also with Guru Sahib.

Kalanaur, Gurdaspur, Dasuha,
Palam Pur, Kangra , Jawala Mukhi , Mandi, Kullu , Shimla , Garhwal , Gaumukhi, Badrinath, Himalaya , Almora , Sialkot, Hasan Abdal, Baramula, Srinagar, Matan near Mantand Jheel, Pahalgam, Amarnath , Darars, Kargil, Skardu, Khalse, Leh Chrusul, Rudok, Gartok , Sumer (Kailash) Parbat , Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, China (Nankin), Ladakh, Jammu, Pathankot and back

4th Udasi (West)
Sambat 1574-1579 (1517-1522 AD)

This travel lasted for a period over 5 years .

Dress worn during this Udasi:

Dressed like Haji,

Blue dress,

Bag (Basta),

Musla , Assa and Lota

Talwandi , Dipalpur, Pak Patan, Multan, Uch, Sukkar,Hydrabad, Lakhpat, Karachi, Hinglaj, Muskat, Oman, Aden, Mecca , Medina, Faid, Hail, An Najf (Iraq), Bagdad , Tehran , Mehud, Tus Heart, Fara Kandhar, Kabul, Jallabad, Khyber pass, Peshawar, Hasan Abdal, Rohtas , Emanabad , Lahore , and back to Talwandi

Those arduous travels went a long way in bringing about desired reformation and regeneration, and spreading his universal message far and wide. This also brought to forefront the unique quality of Nanak ,

The Man and Missionary of God.

After 4th Udasi he returned and stayed at Kartarpur. (Now in Pakistan) and lived there and practiced what he had preached.



Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur Sahib (Pakistan)

Last days of Guru Nanak

- He selected Bhai Lehna Ji as successor who had remained with Guru Nanak for 7 years   as a loyal and an obedient devout disciple to carry on the torch of Sikhism.
- He embraced him and called him Angad (My own limb) and bestowed Guruship on 02 Sept 1539 by bowing before him, handing over Gurbani and Bhagat Bani collected by him during Udasian and left for heavenly abode.
- The light of Guru Nanak Ji merged into Guru Angad Den ji (Bhai Lehna).
- Guru Angad Ji was followed by another eight Gurus till the last 10th Guru Guru Gobinf Singh ji installed Sri Guru Granth Sahib as present Guru in 1706.

First Principle as given by Guru Nanak to Mankind

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ਸਤਿ ਨਾਮੁ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ
ਨਿਰਭਉ ਨਿਰਵੈਰੁ ਅਕਾਲ
ਮੂਰਤਿ ਅਜੂਨੀ ਸੈਭੰ
ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

There is only one Supreme Protector
The only True one ,
The Creator , All Pervasive
Without Fear
Without Enmity
Eternal is the Manifestation
Free from Birth and rebirth and
Self Created.
This understanding
comes by the Guru's Grace.

Messages of Guru Nanak

- ***<u>Kirat Karni –</u>***

Live a honest Life and to earn their living with honest labor

- ***<u>Naam Japna –</u>***

Always remember God

- ***<u>Vand Chakna –</u>***

Share their earnings with others who are less fortunate

Messages of Guru Nanak

1. **Accountability:** Everyone is answerable to God. No one is saved except through good deeds .
   ਸਭਨਾ ਕਾ ਦਰਿ ਲੇਖਾ ਹੋਇ ॥ ਕਰਣੀ ਬਾਝਹੁ ਤਰੈ ਨ ਕੋਇ ॥
   (SGGS - Rag/ Page – Ramkali /952)
2. **Aim of Life:** By making faith your bowings and knowledge of mind the aim of your life , You will find God present wherever you look .
   ਸਿਦਕੁ ਕਰਿ ਸਿਜਦਾ ਮਨੁ ਕਰਿ ਮਖਸੂਦੁ ॥ ਜਿਹ ਧਿਰਿ ਦੇਖਾ ਤਿਹ ਧਿਰਿ ਮਉਜੂਦੁ ॥1॥
   (SGGS - Rag/ Page – Siri/84)
3. **Answerable:** Each one himself answers for his own deeds.
   ਕੀਤਾ ਆਪੋ ਆਪਣਾ ਆਪੇ ਹੀ ਲੇਖਾ ਸੰਢੀਐ ॥
   (SGGS - Rag/ Page – Asa/473)
4. **Astrological Calculations:** Astrological Calculations create suspense and fear in heart , Peace of mind is through refuge in god.
   ਗਣੀਐ ਸਹਸਾ ਦੁਖੁ ਜੀਐ ॥ ਗੁਰ ਕੀ ਸਰਣਿ ਪਵੈ ਸੁਖੁ ਥੀਐ ॥
   (SGGS - Rag/ Page – Ramkali /904)
5. **Attainment of God**: Man attains the Great one through the praise of God one.
   ਵਡਿਆਈ ਵਡਾ ਪਾਇਆ ॥7॥
   (SGGS - Rag/ Page – Asa/474)

Messages of Guru Nanak ..

6. **Auspicious Point of Time :** While counting and determining auspicious moments, man forgets that God alone is controller of time.
   ਸਾਹਾ ਗਣਹਿ ਨ ਕਰਹਿ ਬੀਚਾਰੁ ॥ ਸਾਹੇ ਊਪਰਿ ਏਕੰਕਾਰੁ ॥
   (SGGS - Rag/ Page – Ramkali/ 904)
7. **Belief:** Mind itself is the teacher of the mind.
   ……… ਮਨ ਹੀ ਤੇ ਮਨੁ ਮਾਨਿਆ ॥
   (SGGS - Rag/ Page – Thukari /1111)
8. **Birth & Death**: Man comes and goes in God's will.
   ਹੁਕਮੇ ਆਵੈ ਹੁਕਮੇ ਜਾਇ ॥ ਆਗੈ ਪਾਛੈ ਹੁਕਮਿ ਸਮਾਇ ॥2॥
   (SGGS - Rag/ Page – Gauri /151)
9. **Blood Suckers**: The Garments socked in blood is deemed unclean, Then how can those who make human hearts bleed be considered clean.
   ਸਲੋਕ ਮਃ 1 ॥ ਜੇ ਰਤੁ ਲਗੈ ਕਪੜੈ ਜਾਮਾ ਹੋਇ ਪਲੀਤੁ ॥ ਜੋ ਰਤੁ ਪੀਵਹਿ ਮਾਣਸਾ ਤਿਨ ਕਿਉ ਨਿਰਮਲੁ ਚੀਤੁ ॥
   (SGGS - Rag/ Page – MAjh /140)
10. **Business of the world**: The principal of unions and separation regulate the business of world.
   ਸੰਜੋਗੁ ਵਿਜੋਗੁ ਦੁਇ ਕਾਰ ਚਲਾਵਹਿ
   (SGGS - Rag/ Page – Japu/6) Pauri 28

Messages of Guru Nanak …

11. **Cast & Birth**: God does not take into account our caste or birth, real status of man is as his deeds are.
ਜਾਤਿ ਜਨਮੁ ਨਹ ਪੂਛੀਐ ਸਚ ਘਰੁ ਲੇਹੁ ਬਤਾਇ ॥ ਸਾ ਜਾਤਿ ਸਾ ਪਤਿ ਹੈ ਜੇਹੇ ਕਰਮ ਕਮਾਇ ॥ ਜਨਮ ਮਰਨ ਦੁਖੁ ਕਾਟੀਐ ਨਾਨਕ ਛੂਟਸਿ ਨਾਇ ॥4॥10॥
(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Prabhati/1330)

12. **Creation** : None but the creator himself knows who created the universe .
ਜਾ ਕਰਤਾ ਸਿਰਠੀ ਕਉ ਸਾਜੇ ਆਪੇ ਜਾਣੈ ਸੋਈ ॥
(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Jap /4) Pauri 21

13. **Depriving others**: Depriving others of their dues is like eating Pork for Muslim and Beef for Hindu. .
ਮਃ 1 ॥ ਹਕੁ ਪਰਾਇਆ ਨਾਨਕਾ ਉਸੁ ਸੂਅਰ ਉਸੁ ਗਾਇ ॥
ਗੁਰੁ ਪੀਰੁ ਹਾਮਾ ਤਾ ਭਰੇ ਜਾ ਮੁਰਦਾਰੁ ਨ ਖਾਇ ॥
(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Majh/141)

14. **Domination on Others**: Stupid and boorish they are who seek to dominate others. .
ਹੁਕਮੁ ਕਰਹਿ ਮੂਰਖ ਗਾਵਾਰ ॥ ਨਾਨਕ ਸਾਚੇ ਕੇ ਸਿਫਤਿ ਭੰਡਾਰ ॥4॥3॥
(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Basant/ 1169)

15. **Earth / Universe** : There are many more earths beside ours , beneath and beyond them are others still . Countless are the planetary systems and innumerable there are universe .
ਧਰਤੀ ਹੋਰੁ ਪਰੈ ਹੋਰੁ ਹੋਰੁ ॥ ਤਿਸ ਤੇ ਭਾਰੁ ਤਲੈ ਕਵਣੁ ਜੋਰੁ ॥
(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Japu/3

Messages of Guru Nanak ….

16**. Enlightenment** : As with the appearance of the sun luster of the moon disappears , so with the attainment of knowledge ignorance is dispelled.

ਉਗਵੈ ਸੂਰੁ ਨ ਜਾਪੈ ਚੰਦੁ ॥ ਜਹ ਗਿਆਨ ਪ੍ਰਗਾਸੁ ਅਗਿਆਨੁ ਮਿਟੰਤੁ ॥

(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Suhi/ 791)

17. **Equality**: Call everyone high, None seem to be low for One God , the potter, has fashioned all alike and his light shines in all creation.

ਸਭੁ ਕੋ ਊਚਾ ਆਖੀਐ ਨੀਚੁ ਨ ਦੀਸੈ ਕੋਇ ॥ਇਕਨੈ ਭਾਂਡੇ ਸਾਜਿਐ ਇਕੁ ਚਾਨਣੁ ਤਿਹੁ ਲੋਇ ॥

(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Siri/ 62)

18. **Falsehood**: A hundred lies uttered as may times remains just lies and no better even if whole world assents to them. .

ਜੇ ਸਉ ਕੂੜੀਆ ਕੂੜੁ ਕਬਾੜੁ ॥ ਭਾਵੈ ਸਭੁ ਆਖਉ ਸੰਸਾਰੁ ॥

(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Dhansari/ 662)

19. **Law of Karma**: One receives in accordance with one does. As one sows so one eats.

ਜੈਸਾ ਕਰੇ ਸੁ ਤੈਸਾ ਪਾਵੈ ॥ ਆਪਿ ਬੀਜਿ ਆਪੇ ਹੀ ਖਾਵੈ ॥

(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Dhansari/ 662)

20. **Humility**: Humble sweetness is the essence of all that is good and all that is virtuous.

ਮਿਠਤੁ ਨੀਵੀ ਨਾਨਕਾ ਗੁਣ ਚੰਗਿਆਈਆ ਤਤੁ ॥

(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Assa/ 470)

Messages of Guru Nanak ….

21.. **Most superb Task**: The trusted deeds , to be done in this world is praise of God.
ਇਸੁ ਜਗ ਮਹਿ ਕਰਣੀ ਸਾਰੀ॥ ਕਰਣੀ ਕੀਰਤਿ ਹੋਈ ॥ ਜਾ ਆਪੇ ਮਿਲਿਆ ਸੋਈ ॥4॥1॥12॥
(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Sorath/ 599)

22. **Rituals** : That ritual is forbidden that make us forget God.
ਮਹਲਾ 1 ॥ ਜਾਲਉ ਐਸੀ ਰੀਤਿ ਜਿਤੁ ਮੈ ਪਿਆਰਾ ਵੀਸਰੈ ॥
(SGGS - Rag/ Page – Wadhans/ 590)

23. **Family** : He reasoned with Saints and Sadhus to be responsible to their family , Society and Political boundaries.

24. **Woman** : He reasoned why call a woman inferior, when she is demonstrably the matrix of all human greatness. Kings and saints are born of her
ਮਃ 1 ॥ਭੰਡਿ ਜੰਮੀਐ ਭੰਡਿ ਨਿੰਮੀਐ ਭੰਡਿ ਮੰਗਣੁ ਵੀਆਹੁ ॥ ਭੰਡਹੁ ਹੋਵੈ ਦੋਸਤੀ ਭੰਡਹੁ ਚਲੈ ਰਾਹੁ ॥
ਭੰਡੁ ਮੁਆ ਭੰਡੁ ਭਾਲੀਐ ਭੰਡਿ ਹੋਵੈ ਬੰਧਾਨੁ ॥ ਸੋ ਕਿਉ ਮੰਦਾ ਆਖੀਐ ਜਿਤੁ ਜੰਮਹਿਰਾਜਾਨ ॥
(SGGS – Rag/ Page Assa/473)*

25. **Rulers**: A ruler remains installed on thrown by virtue of his good deeds.
ਰਾਜਾ ਤਖਤਿ ਟਿਕੈ ਗੁਣੀ ਭੈ ਪੰਚਾਇਣ ਰਤੁ ॥1॥
(SGGS Rag/ Page Maru/ 992)

(Sri Guru Granth Sahib Rag/ Page No)

References

I have made an effort to compile life of Great Guru Nanak Dev Ji and some of his teachings in this small booklet based on some of the most important reference books. These books provide an authentic proof of his life, teachings and his travels across Asia.

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